



Week of April 19, 2020

John 20:19-31

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.

²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe."

²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book.

³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.



Group Leader

Remember: you don't need to use all of the questions. Go with what works. Give people a chance to think before answering, but if a question falls flat, move on. Let the discussion go where it needs to go, as long as it remains centered around the lesson. Give the participants page 1. Use this page for yourself.

Gathering questions:

- A. Do you believe in literal miracles? Have you ever experienced one?
- B. Who told you something about yourself that you believed – but should not have? Who has told you something about yourself that you don't believe – but you should?

Bible Study Questions:

1. Do you regard the Resurrection as a literal event?
2. In verse 20, Jesus shows the disciples his hands and side without being asked. Why do you think he did that?
3. Verse 22 is sometimes called "John's Pentecost" because the Holy Spirit comes to the disciples at that point. What significance do you think this holds for them or for the story?
4. Verse 23 has been interpreted in many different ways. What do you think it means?
5. In verse 27 Jesus tells Thomas "do not doubt but believe." Where are your greatest doubts with regard to Christian faith? How should those doubts be dealt with? Should they simply be discarded?
6. Verse 30 speaks of other signs Jesus performed that are not recorded. Why do you think they weren't recorded? What signs of God have you seen in your life?
7. Verse 31 makes it clear that the point of this story is to have people believe that Jesus is the Messiah. How is the Resurrection story one that gives you hope?
8. In these difficult times, how can you convey hope to others?

Closing prayer: particularly invite prayers about being a better messenger of hope